692 session of biis.

In every volost from 4 to 8 biis were elected both for the judgment of criminal cases, subject to the people's court (1) and

673 1. Murder and baranta were considered criminal cases, subject to the people's court.

[698] The Kazakhs were judged by a military court for treason, inciting their fellow tribesmen to oppose the government, attacking the mail and military transports, the murder of Christians and other persons who had expressed the desire to become Christians, and for the murder of officials.

The Kazakhs were tried according to the common criminal laws of the empire for brigandage, stealing, attacking merchant caravans, flight into foreign domains, setting fire, manifest opposition to authorities, the manufacture and transmission of counterfeit money and the stealing of state property.

for every sort of litigation and suit.

693 The biis were elected by the people for three years.

Anyone could be chosen as a bii who enjoyed the respect and trust of the people, had not been blamed by a court, was not under investigation, and was not less than 25 years old.

The elected biis were confirmed by the military governor. They did not receive a salary, but they had the right to receive /177/ a special fee /biilyk/ for judging cases, which was established by folk customs. The fine for property suits could not be determined as higher than one-tenth of the value of the suit. For the judgment of murder cases of personal injuries, the biilyk was designated according to the customs.

692 The opposing sides in a litigation could, by mutual consent, turn to one or several biis for the examination of their case. The agreement of the litigating sides on the choice of a bii or biis for the judgment of their case had to be entered in the book established for the recording of judgments. In such a case, the judgment of the biis, as having the character of arbitration (1) was final in any amount.

1. In ancient times all courts were courts of arbitration among the Kazakhs, i. e., they were chosen each time by both sides. The plaintiff and the defendant appeared before the bii chosen by them, and if the bii was far away they